



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Clo*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,331	01/23/2004	Doo-Young Ryu	1594.1315	4947
21171	7590	10/04/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			LU, JIPING	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3749	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/762,331	RYU, DOO-YOUNG
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jiping Lu	3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-3, 8, 11-16, 19-20 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 4-7,9,10,17 and 18 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/23/2004.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 8, 11-16, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,983,520) in view of Dinh (U. S. Pat. 6,742,284).

Kim et al show a drum washing machine with an air duct 18 and blower 20. A clothes-drying unit has a heat recovery system 22, 23. Heat from temperature humid air exhausted out of the water tub 4 and combined with the recovered heat with low temperature dry air 23 flowing from an area around a condensing nozzle 24. However, Kim does not show a heat pipe recovery. Dinh shows a heat pipe heat recovery system 12 same as the applicant's. The wet or humid waste heat 20 is recovered and combined with the low temperature dry air 18. The resultant dry air 18 is directed to the machine. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the washing machine of Kim et al with a heat pipe as taught by Dinh in order to recover waste heat and save energy.

3. Claims 1-3, 8, 11-16, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,983,520) in view of Maisotsenko et al (U. S. Pat. 6,497,107).

Kim et al show a drum washing machine with an air duct 18 and blower 20. A clothes-drying unit has a heat recovery system 22, 23. Heat from temperature humid air exhausted out of

the water tub 4 and combined with the recovered heat with low temperature dry air 23 flowing from an area around a condensing nozzle 24. However, Kim does not show a heat pipe recovery. Maisotsenko et al show a heat pipe heat recovery system 69 same as the applicant's. The wet or humid waste heat 4 is recovered and combined with the low temperature dry air 4. The resultant dry air 67 is directed to the machine. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the washing machine of Kim et al with a heat pipe as taught by Maisotsenko et al. in order to recover waste heat and save energy.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

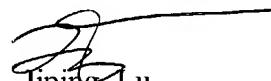
4. Claims 4-7 and 9-10, 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 703-308-2354. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 703 308-1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jiping Lu  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3749

J. L.